

## Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Monitoring the Implementation of Property Master Plans

Property: Dell Creek State Wildlife Area\*

Master Plan Year: 2003

\* A combined plan with Mirror Lake SP

### Land Management

<b><i>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</i></b>	Maintain approximately 1,500 acres of mixed upland forest of various tree sizes, age classes, and patch sizes with about half the stand composition being red/white pine and half aspen, oaks, and other early successional species.
<b><i>Accomplishments 2012</i></b>	2012 forestry accomplishments on Dell Crk WA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 43 acre pine thinning for about 965 cords</li><li>• 20 acres grass/weed control on hardwood tree plantations</li><li>• 2 firewood permits for 6 cords</li><li>• 1200 acres field recon completed that to be entered into WisFirs</li></ul>

<b>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</b>	In the short-term, modify the existing red pine plantations – approximately 350 acres – to a more natural-appearing stand condition. Over the long-term, the plantation red pine may be regenerated or the site shifted to another more desirable habitat type.
<b>Accomplishments 2012</b>	<i>A second row-thinning timber harvest was conducted on red pine plantations south of South Ave. totaling 43 acres in 2012.</i>

<b>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</b>	Protect and maintain the 20-acre relict hemlock stand in the northwestern part of the wildlife area.
<b>Accomplishments 2012</b>	<i>No action taken or required. This hemlock stand remains intact and was maintained during 2012.</i>

<b>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</b>	Protect the water quality of the creek by restoring marginal, erodible cropland to permanent vegetation.
<b>Accomplishments 2012</b>	<i>Former cropland on the "UptatheFarm" parcel off the end of DNR Rd. in T13N R5E section 6 was converted from agricultural land to permanent grass/forb in 2010. This prairie planting was mowed in 2011 to reduce weed competition and was burned in 2012 to further promote native grass/forb growth.</i>

<b>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</b>	Maintain/create approximately 1,600 acres of grassland, prairie, savanna, and sand barrens on appropriate sites. Prairie and savanna should be favored whenever possible. The continued restoration and maintenance of the approximately 200-acre town hall barrens site is a priority.
<b>Accomplishments 2012</b>	<i>Approximately 80 acres of restored grassland/forb near the 4-Corners area was burned in spring, 2012 to promote grassland/forb vegetation. Permanent firebreaks were maintained on several prescribed burn units in T13N R5E sections 6, 8, 9 and 16 in preparation for the spring, 2013 prescribed burn season and to provide wildland fire safety breaks on large tracts.</i>

<b>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</b>	Maintain a diversity of lowland vegetation, i.e. alder thicket, wet meadow, and forested wetland, as appropriate to the site conditions.
<b>Accomplishments 2012</b>	<i>Maintenance activities in these vegetation communities were hampered by thawed/wet ground conditions during winter 2011-12 and by severe drought conditions during summer, 2012. Spot treatment, using herbicides, was used on several small patches to control invasive species.</i>

<b>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</b>	Provide important Ruffed Grouse and Woodcock nesting and brood rearing cover on 150 acres of alder by maintaining a diversity of age class (0-10 years) and stem size.
<b>Accomplishments 2012</b>	<i>Annual rotational shearing of alder stands were not possible during winter, 2011-12 due to thawed/wet ground conditions. Alder shearing is planned for winter, 2012-13 if frozen ground and snow depths allow for access of heavy equipment.</i>

<b>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</b>	<p>Establish a control site for alder where no active management will be conducted. This will allow long-term comparison of the ecological differences with alder sites that have been sheared for regeneration purposes. This site should be at least 10 acres located along the creek corridor in the middle portion of the property and not close to areas that are part o the shearing rotation.</p>
<b>Accomplishments 2012</b>	<p><i>A 10-acre control site for alder has been established and is being protected in T13N R5E NESW section 8.</i></p>

## Fisheries Management

<b>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</b>	Improve trout fishing opportunities and stream access. Increase trout populations through wild strain stocking and habitat improvement techniques.
<b>Accomplishments 2012</b>	<i>Fisheries management stocked Brook, Rainbow and Brown trout in Dell Creek in 2012.</i>

## Public Access and Recreation

<b>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</b>	<p>Provide opportunities for hunting, watching wildlife, trapping, fishing in a non-motorized setting. Secondly, provide opportunities for other compatible recreational uses, such as hiking, nature study, and berry picking. Actions to be taken to meet these objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limit public motor vehicle access to designated parking lots and their access roads. ATV and horse use is prohibited on the property. Department managed roads may be gated or bermed at the discretion of the property manager.</li> <li>• Maintain twenty-one 6- to 10-car parking lots on the periphery of the property. These lightly developed access roads and parking lots may be either soil or gravel surfaced, depending upon the level of use and site conditions.</li> <li>• Develop and maintain up to four primitive loop-walking trails of 1-2 miles each. These designated trails will have informational signs at the trailhead parking lots and way-finding markers along the route.</li> <li>• Develop a segment of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail approximately 2.5 miles long through the southern half of the property. This trail will be a lightly developed trail with primarily a natural soil base.</li> </ul>
<b>Accomplishments 2012</b>	<p><i>Access roads and 17 parking lots were maintained through regular litter pick-up and seasonal mowing to control weed growth. Routine property boundary posting and boundary inspections were completed on approximately 4 miles of existing boundary in 2012. New acquisitions were posted in 2012.</i></p> <p><i>Shortages of staffing and funding prohibited work to develop loop trails and Ice Age Scenic Trail.</i></p>